

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 22235 01 OF 02 201526Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /080 W

-----106679 201538Z /44

O 201508Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3164

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION SINAI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 22235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EG IS XF

SUBJECT: REACTION TO BEGIN PROPOSALS

SUMMARY. BEGIN-SADAT TO MEET ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN ISMAILIA. LEADERS REPORTED THEY WILL STUDY MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER BEFORE MEETING 1000 JOURNALISTS. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON BEGIN'S PROPOSALS GUARDED BUT PRESS BEGINNING SUSPECT THEY WILL NOT MEET EGYPTIAN EXPECTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 22235 01 OF 02 201526Z

1. VISIT. PRESS DEC 20 HEADLINES BEGIN TO ARRIVE IN ISMAILIA ON CHRISTMAS DAY. MEETING WILL BE HELD ON NEWLY RENAMED "PEACE ISLAND" (FORMERLY FURSAN). ADDING TO AUSPICIOUSNESS OF OCCASION, DEC 25 MARKS SADAT'S 60TH BIRTHDAY. PRESS SAYS MRS. BEGIN MAY ACCOMPANY; ISRAELI PM WILLING EXTEND STAY IF SADAT WISHES FURTHER

TALKS. BEGIN'S PLANE WILL LAND AT "ONE OF THE AIRPORTS IN THE CANAL AREA", FOLLOWING WHICH HE WILL TAKE ANOTHER PLANE TO ISMAILIA. PRESS REPORTS AMBASSADOR DELIVERED DETAILS CARTER-BEGIN TALKS TO SADAT DEC 19. REPORTEDLY, THIS MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WILL BE STUDIED BY EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI LEADERS. FOLLOWING MEETING, JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY RESEARCH CENTER, WITH ESTIMATED THOUSAND NEWSMEN EXPECTED COVER EVENT.

2. ANXIETY. AKHBAR'S MAIN EDITORIAL SAYS EVERYONE ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO KNOW WHAT BEGIN WILL BRING. HIS PROPOSALS SUBJECT MUCH SPECULATION, WITH REPORTS MIXED: SOME OBSERVERS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, OTHERS THE REVERSE. ONE THING CERTAIN, SAYS AKHBAR, IS CHRISTMAS MEETING WILL NOT BE THE LAST; NOR WILL WHATEVER BEGIN BRINGS BE THE LAST WORD SAID. THERE WILL BE MANY MORE MEETINGS, WITH MUCH GIVE AND TAKE. IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT BUSINESS BEING CONDUCTED IN ATMOSPHERE OF OPTIMISM. PROBLEMS OF THIRTY YEARS WILL NOT BE RESOLVED OVERNIGHT -- TWO SIDES FACE HARD SITUATION AND WILL HAVE TO MAKE BIG EFFORT SHED PAST. BEGIN'S VISIT SHOULD BE VIEWED AS PART OF POSITIVE ACTION FOR PEACE.

3. NO PEACE WITHOUT FULL WITHDRAWAL. GUMHURIYYA SAYS BEGIN PROPOSAL, ANNOUNCED ON U.S. TV, STRONGLY REMINISCENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 22235 01 OF 02 201526Z

OF ALLON PLAN. PAPER POINTS OUT ISRAELI PM COMPLETELY FAILED REFER TO ANY WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES. CONCLUDES ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON MAINTAINING MILITARY OR NON-MILITARY PRESENCE ON WEST BANK EQUIVALENT TO PLANTING TIME BOMB THREATENING REGION'S PEACE. "EGYPT'S FIRST CONCERN IS WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI MILITARY FORCES FROM WEST BANK."

4. WHY THE RUSH? AKHBAR COLUMN QUESTIONS REASONS BEHIND BEGIN'S HASTE IN RUSHING TO U.S. WITH HIS PROPSALS. NOTES TRIP PRECEDED BY INTENSE ZIONIST PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN GEARED TO GIVE IMPRESSION BEGIN RESPONDING TO SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. YET, IF DETAILS REPORTED CORRECT, BEGIN'S PROPOSAL REPRESENTS "SLOW AND AMBIGUOUS MOVE WHICH RAISES MANY QUESTIONS". COLUMNIST CRITICIZES U.S. DESCRIPTION OF THESE PROPOSALS AS "POSITIVE STEP ON ROAD TO PEACE", NOTING IT ISSUED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID USG NOT IN POSITION TO EITHER ACCEPT OR REJECT ANYTHING. LATTER POSITION, COLUMNIST ALLEGES, IS CORRECT STANCE FOR USG UNTIL IT LEARNS ARAB REACTIONS. BEGIN STATEMENT THAT JERUSALEM WILL REMAIN UNIFIED CITY AND CAPITAL OF ISRAEL SHARPLY CRITICAL: EGYPT WILL NOT ACCEPT "LAME STEPS, HESITANT

ISRAELI METHODS, AND VISUALIZATION UNACCEPTABLE TO ANY BALANCED MIND." SIMILARLY, GUMHURIYYA EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, IN SIGNED COMMENTARY, CLAIMS NO ARAB WILL ACCEPT ISRAELI ANNEXATION OF JERUSALEM. MOOTS POSSIBILITY OF TWIN CITY SOLUTION, NOTING JERUSALEM CENTRAL TO ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.
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5. COMMENT: WHILE RELUCTANT TO COME DOWN HARD ON BEGIN'S

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 22235 02 OF 02 201528Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 22235

PROPOSALS GIVEN FRAGMENTARY REPORTS AVAILABLE, PRESS
OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT LIKE WHAT IT HAS HEARD ABOUT THEM THUS
FAR. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO BEGIN PROPOSALS SUMMARY. BEGIN-SADAT TO MEET ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN ISMAILIA. LEADERS REPORTED THEY WILL STUDY MESSAG
TAGS: PDEV, EG, IS, XF, (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/78d55000-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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